

Engineers are hereby memorialized to promptly close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet in the manner contemplated by the Coast 2050 Plan; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the United States Congress, the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

POM-490. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to a hurricane evacuation route in Louisiana Mississippi; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, every hurricane season raises the prospect and threat of a hurricane hitting southeastern Louisiana from such a direction as to wreak enormous flooding, loss of life, and other devastation; and

Whereas, Louisiana's hurricane evacuation routes are growing increasingly vulnerable to coastal storm surge and flooding, and measures need to be taken as soon as possible to ensure the safe navigation of the residents inland; and

Whereas, due to the large population in the southern part of Louisiana and vulnerability to the destruction of property and businesses due to hurricanes and tropical storms, the development of a hurricane evacuation route is necessary for the protection and safe evacuation of the residents of south Louisiana; and

Whereas, the proposed evacuation route would offer a four-lane route from New Orleans, Louisiana along Highway 25 to the Mississippi state line, and continue along Mississippi Highway 27 to Crystal Springs, Mississippi to intersect with Interstate 55; and

Whereas, additionally, the proposed evacuation route should include a four-lane route from Paris Road, which is also known as Louisiana Highway 47, and connect in New Orleans into the proposed four-lane evacuation route from New Orleans, Louisiana to the Mississippi state line; and

Whereas, since Highway 25 and Highway 47 are already designated as evacuation routes, each of the proposed four-lanes would become a critical element to move thousands of people from New Orleans and the North Shore to safe areas northward; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to appropriate and expedite funding for the development of a hurricane evacuation route in Louisiana and Mississippi; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-491. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to ownership of mineral rights and surface rights on state and federal lands in Michigan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171

Whereas, State-owned land in Michigan amounts to approximately 12 percent of the acreage, and the federal government manages another 8 percent of Michigan's surface area. This large percentage of state and federal land ownership is especially significant in the situations in which ownership of mineral rights is not consistent with the ownership of the surface rights; and

Whereas, the degree to which the rights to minerals do not align with rights to the surface of the land is cause for considerable liti-

gation and frustration in Michigan. This frustration is felt by citizen groups, energy companies, local units of government, and all consumers of gas and oil; and

Whereas, the state of Michigan has jurisdiction over both mineral and surface rights on 3.8 million acres of land and mineral rights alone on another 2.1 million acres. Maps showing ownership of property in Michigan reflect a crazy quilt of ownership. The common situation of surface land ownership differing from ownership of the mineral rights below presents many problems to our state. This nonalignment of ownership makes it difficult to protect land from development and difficult to develop to extract the energy that our society needs. Instead, expensive and minimally productive litigation can be the result; and

Whereas, it would be far more productive for the state and federal governments to work together to do all possible to minimize conflicts in ownership between surface rights and mineral rights: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States, the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Forest Service, and the Department of Energy to work with Michigan officials to exchange property to align the ownership of mineral rights and surface rights on state and federal lands in Michigan and to express our intent to take actions to achieve this goal; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Interior, the National Forest Service, and the Department of Energy.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS for the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

*Neil McPhie, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

*Barbara J. Sapin, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2007.

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Larry C. Kindsvater, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence for Community Management.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2701. A bill to provide incentives for the sharing of homeland security information, promote the development of an information sharing network, provide grants and other support to achieve communications interoperability, and establish an Office of Infor-

mation Sharing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2702. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to repeal the requirement that persons making disbursements for electioneering communications file reports on such disbursements with the Federal Election Commission and the prohibition against the making of disbursements for electioneering communications by corporations and labor organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2703. A bill to provide for the correction of a certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System map; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAHAM of Florida:

S. 2704. A bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to cover certain legal immigrants under the medicaid and State children's health insurance programs; read the first time.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2705. A bill to provide assistance to Sudan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 2706. A bill to establish kinship navigator programs, to establish kinship guardianship assistance payments for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 2707. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to recognize the services of respiratory therapists under the plan of care for home health services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 2708. A bill to develop the National Strategy for Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 2709. A bill to provide for the reforestation of appropriate forest cover on forest land derived from the public domain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2710. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the quality and efficiency of health care delivery through improvements in health care information technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2711. A bill to establish a National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BOND, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 2712. A bill to preserve the ability of the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages under sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2713. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise the amount of minimum allotments under the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 2714. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by